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GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

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NOTE TO TEACHERS—Because of the Christmas holidays, the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS will not be published for the next two weeks, resuming on January 7, 1946.

Herbert C. and J. Henry White

SNOW MAKES AN UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS CAMEO OF A PEIPING PARK SCENE

GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETIN

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic School Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers in the United States and its possessions for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (stamps or money order); in Canada, 30 cents. Originally entered as second-class matter January 27, 1922; re-entered as of April 27, 1943, Post Office, Washington, D. C., under Act of March 3, 1879. **Copyright, 1945, by National Geographic Society, Washington 6, D. C. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Quedan reservados todos los derechos.**

Palaces and Hovels Characterize North China's Peiping

UNITED States Marines in Peiping, north China's metropolis and once capital (as Peking) of the Chinese Empire, have revealed that the Japanese, during their eight-year occupation, systematically looted the Imperial Palace of priceless jade, and treasures in gold, pearl, and ivory, as well as ancient maps and other objects of historic value. Surrounded by a high wall, the palace occupies a central position in the city.

Covering an area of about 25 square miles, Peiping is really three cities within a city, all walled—one within the other. The Tatar City, called Mu-Ching, was built first. The Chinese City, called Wai-Ching, was added later. The innermost part, Kin-Ching, was the Forbidden City to all but the emperor and his family.

Only the Legation Quarter Had Modern Buildings

From the 34-foot-wide top of the Tatar Wall can be had the best view of the entire city—a jumbled panorama of Oriental beauty, with huge walls, shining temples, palaces, and parks (illustration, cover) interspersed among miles of flimsy hovels. A city of noise and confusion, Peiping echoes to the shrill screech of streetcars, the cry of hawkers, and the never-ending arguments between camel-caravan drivers and street merchants.

Before the war, the population was estimated at 1,500,000. This figure fluctuated constantly, due to the large groups of tourists and members of foreign diplomatic corps and armies stationed in Peiping. The only buildings of modern architecture were those of the Legation Quarter which were in great contrast to the Oriental temples and palaces in the Forbidden City.

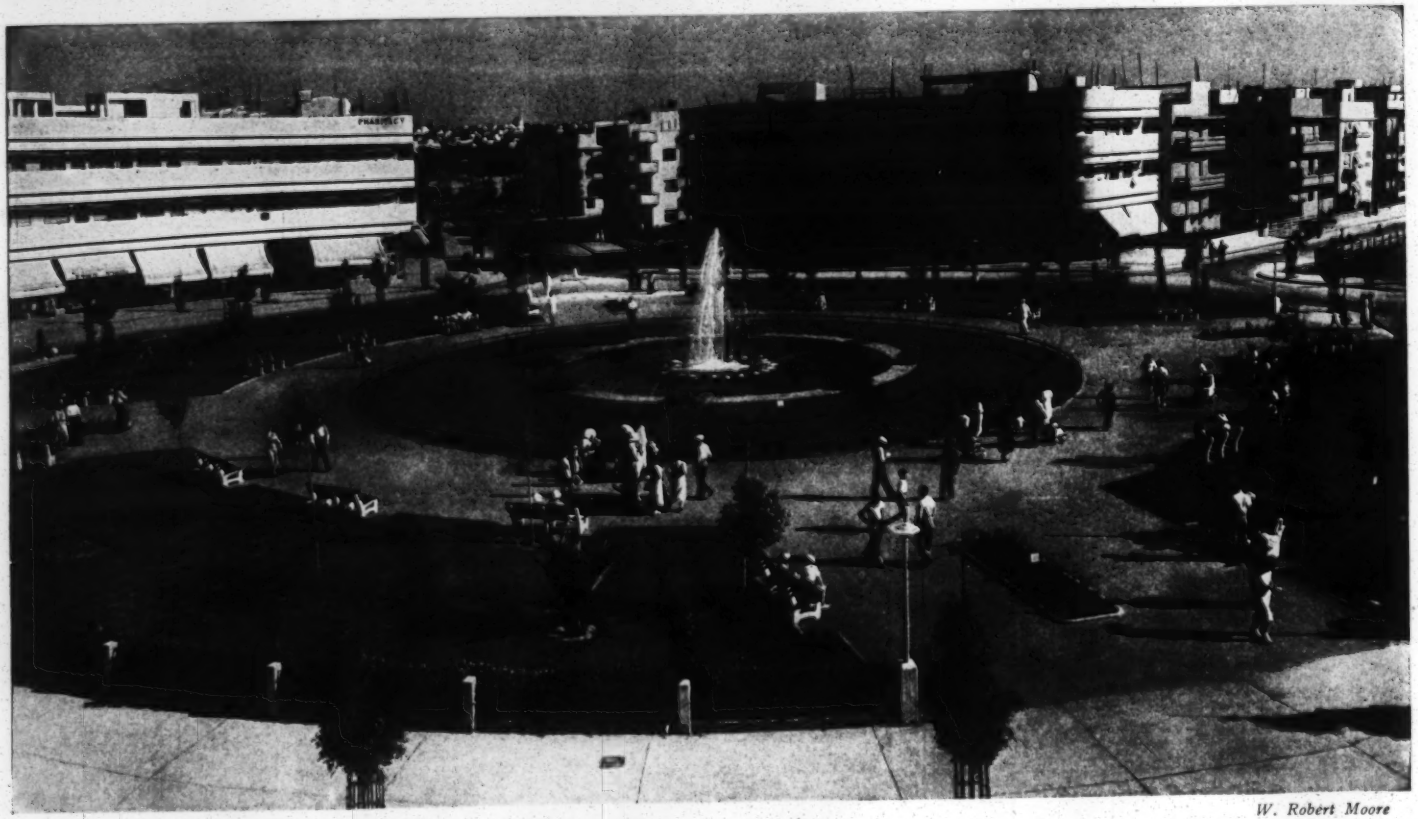
Small side streets are often narrow and foul-smelling, with rows of small one- or two-story buildings on either side. The main streets are macadamized, and in prewar days supported a tangle of streetcars, pedestrians, camel trains from the Gobi, human beasts of burden (illustration, next page), bicycles, autos, and animals being brought to market. The busy shopping district was a maze of stores and bookstalls. Gaily painted pennants swung in the breeze over curio shops where the staccato of haggling tradesmen's voices could be heard.

There are no important industrial plants in Peiping; rather it has been renowned as an intellectual and political center. In normal times, 55,000 students, many of them women, attended the universities. The city came through the war with little damage.

"Northern Capital" Became "Northern Peace" in 1928

About 35 miles southeast of the Great Wall, which separates it from the Gobi and Inner Mongolia, Peiping lies in the province of Hopeh. Eighty miles to the southeast, on the Hai River which flows into the Gulf of Chihli (Po Hai), is Tientsin. Through this gateway city, where another contingent of Marines is stationed, Peiping is connected with the sea.

Since the 12th century B.C., the city has been recorded in Chinese history by a variety of names and under numerous conquerors, the most famous of whom was Kublai Khan. It was known in his time as Khanbalig, the fabulous city which Marco Polo described in the account of his travels. In 1421 the Ming Emperor Yung Lo called the capital Peking (northern capital) and it was known by that name until 1928 when the nationalists changed it to Peiping (northern peace) and



W. Robert Moore

MODERN, WELL-PLANNED TEL AVIV, THE BOOM TOWN OF THE NEAR EAST, IS THE SHOWPLACE OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT

Crowded by immigrants and refugees from all over the world, this urban development in Palestine is the only all-Jewish city the world has seen since the ancient downfall of the Jewish homeland. Palestine's historic cities, such as Jerusalem, Haifa, and Jaffa, contain about one-half Jews. The entire country has 1,028,000 Arabs, 502,000 Jews, and 131,000 Christians (Bulletin No. 3).

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From Shut-In Austrian Valleys Came Beloved "Silent Night"

THIS Christmastide, first since the war's close, will ring with the singing of carols all over the world. How one Christmas song, "Silent Night," was composed in a shut-in Alpine village, and then, all but forgotten, how it spread as though by miraculous accident to all corners of the world, makes a story almost as interesting geographically as it is religiously inspiring.

The story has grown legendlike in many tellings until today's printed sources differ in many details. But the essence of the tale is the same.

Local Scenes Reminded Composer of First Christmas Eve

In Oberndorf, just north of Salzburg, Austria, and just over the mountains from Berchtesgaden, Germany, Father Josef Möhr was the parish pastor. The organ of his little church was in need of repair, as mice had eaten at the bellows. He and his organist, Franz Grüber, with Christmas, 1818, approaching, were saddened that the instrument would not be usable for the Holy Eve mass.

On the night before Christmas Eve Father Möhr got a call to bless a newborn baby in a rude hut on one of the highest Alps in the parish. (One source says the call was to administer the last rites to a dying woman.) From the high trail leading to his parishioner's shack, the cleric looked down on the quiet, peaceful valley of the Salzach and saw the outlines of the village in the snow-muffled distance. He thought to himself, "It must have been something like this—that silent, holy night in Bethlehem."

Strangely moved, his feeling of oneness with that other Christmas Eve centuries ago was heightened by the scene of the newborn babe in its poor surroundings. Into his mind came the scriptural line, "Unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour."

The good man's inspiration was complete when, on his return, he saw the valley strewn with moving points of light—torches carried by his faithful followers as they moved down the trails and converged on the church. After the midnight service, the priest, sitting in his study, wrote the moving words that have become indelibly associated with Christmas.

Music-lovers of the Zillertal Kept Song Alive

The next morning (Christmas Eve) the organist Franz Grüber, who was at that time the music teacher at Arnsdorf, a near-by village, set the simple words to an easily sung tune. The priest and the teacher, accompanied by Grüber's guitar, tried the song for the first time. Children in the streets stopped playing to listen. That night they formally rendered it before the congregation. Grüber said, "The Lord can hear us, even without an organ."

The Lord and Oberndorf's villagers might have been the only audience for the new hymn but for Karl Mauracher, organ builder and repairer from the Zillertal (Ziller valley) in the Austrian Tyrol. He repaired Herr Grüber's organ, and the latter, in testing it, absent-mindedly lapsed into the newly composed melody. The organ builder committed it to memory and took it back to the Zillertal.

In this steep-sided, remote Alpine valley, singing was a popular diversion. The best young voices were those of the four Strasser children. They added the new song to their repertoire of Tyrolese folk airs. Every year they journeyed to faraway Leipzig with their father. He was a glovemaker and his children sang in front of his stall at the great trade fairs to attract customers.

UMI

moved the seat of the government to Nanking (southern capital).

Scene of many battles, Peiping was besieged in 1900 during the Boxer Rebellion and in 1911 was shaken by a revolution which stripped the Manchu dynasty of its power, ousted the emperor, and established the republic under Sun Yat-sen. It was also near this city that the second Sino-Japanese war broke out, following a clash between Chinese and Japanese soldiers at the Marco Polo Bridge, seven miles southwest of the city, on July 7, 1937.

Northwest of Peiping stands the $50,000,000 summer palace of the former emperor, built as a whim of his mother, the infamous "Dowager Empress." The structure has lost a little of its splendor each year as its gardens have gone untended and the tiles and marble have broken and settled into the dust.

Beyond the palace are the stately Ming tombs where emperors of the past are interred, while all around the city landmarks with romantic names in storybook settings stand beside evidences of modern enterprise. A commercial airfield is nestled between the Temple of the Sleeping Buddha and the Temple of the Azure Clouds. Beyond the Temple of the Moon is a golf course, and near the Marco Polo Bridge are located a huge brewery and a racetrack.

Note: Peiping may be located on the National Geographic Society's Map of China. A price list of maps may be obtained from the Society's headquarters, Washington 6, D. C.

For additional material, see "Peacetime Plant Hunting about Peiping," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for October, 1937*; "Peiping's Happy New Year," December, 1936*; "Approach to Peiping," February, 1936*; "Tientsin, China Trouble Spot, Was Battleground in Boxer War," in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS for December 3, 1945. (*Issues marked with an asterisk are included in a special list of Magazines available to teachers in packets of ten for $1.00.*)

Bulletin No. 1, December 17, 1945.

Branson De Cou

LACK OF TRUCKS AND TRAINS MAKES MACHINES OF MILLIONS OF CHINESE

This Peiping street scene is not unusual. Cartmen unquestioningly hitch themselves to staggering loads and drag them through the streets or along the deep-grooved earth roads of China, day in and day out, for a few cents' pay. In 1938, Free China had only 12,347 registered motor trucks. In the United States, only Vermont, Nevada, and Delaware had a smaller registration. China's railroad mileage was only slightly more than 13,500, including the Manchurian lines. Coolies chant "Ho!" and "Ha!" as they trudge along, thus easing their task in a manner similar to Mississippi stevedores who sing as they unload cotton bales.

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Tel Aviv Is Palestine's Tailor-Made, All-Jewish City

RIOTING at Tel Aviv, all-Jewish city, in protest against Britain's Palestine policy made headlines for one of the world's most unusual civic developments. As a wartime leave center for American troops in the Near East the city offered many attractions and activities comparable to home.

The current difficulties are rooted in the plan of Zionist leaders to establish a Jewish state in Palestine, and Britain's concern for the civil and religious desires of both Jewish and Arabic groups. After its conquest in 1917-18 by British forces, Palestine remained under British military administration until July, 1920, when a civil government was set up. The country had been under Turkish dominion since 1517.

Began as Suburb of Old Jaffa

Tel Aviv lies near the mid-point of Palestine's Mediterranean coast, between the city of Jaffa and the mouth of the Yarkon River. It is a made-to-order town, only 36 years old. It "started from scratch," with the decision of Jewish businessmen living in Arab-ruled Jaffa to build a community of their own.

The site occupies a sandy stretch of coast north of Jaffa, the Joppa of Bible times. With money advanced by the Jewish National Fund, work on the model community was started in 1909. By 1941 Tel Aviv was approaching centuries-old Jerusalem in population, and had more than 140,000 residents. The total for its next-door neighbor Jaffa is 85,000. New sections have been added to Tel Aviv to accommodate newcomers, but housing has been under continual pressure from immigration.

Progress was halted for four years by the First World War. A Turkish order requiring the evacuation of Jaffa and its budding suburb scattered the populations, and operations were not resumed until 1917, when British forces won control of the area. Tel Aviv—meaning Hill of Spring—became a separate community by action of the British civil administration in Palestine. It received a charter authorizing it to set up its own government and to levy its own taxes. Civic rule functions through a mayor and a council.

Construction called for many skills. Students and clerks, young men and girls helped in the building of their new city, becoming carpenters, masons, pavers, and decorators. Houses and business buildings are styled in the modern manner (illustration, inside cover). Broad streets speed traffic and provide spacious passageways for pageants and festival parades.

Sun Bathing Becomes a Fashion

Boulevards are divided by tree-studded traffic islands. Two of the main ones, Allenby Road and Balfour Street, are named after British notables who shared in shaping present-day Palestine. Herzl Street and Rothschild Boulevard, other chief avenues, are named after famous Jews, the first an author and public leader, the second a financier.

Before the war shops offered a wide variety of foreign wares, and steamship services advertised rates to Europe and America. Throughout the war cylindrical billboards in public areas flaunted announcements of theaters, movies, and other local amusements. Sidewalk cafes and night clubs flourish in the heart of the city. At the bathing beach (illustration, next page) there are modern dance halls

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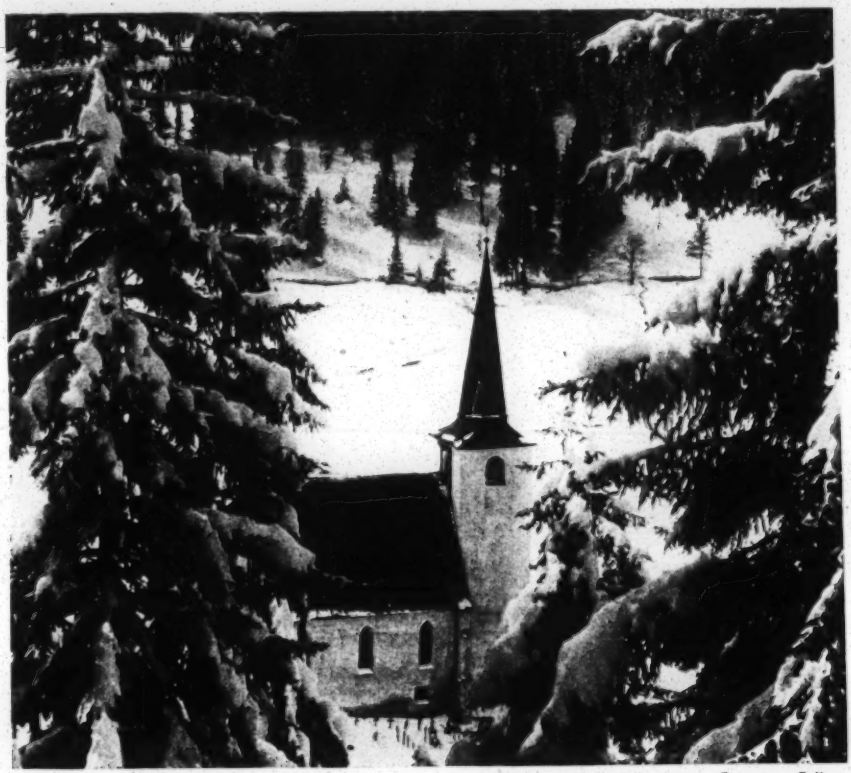
The Strassers found that city folk liked the simple Christmas melody as much as the people back home. One day a dignified-looking man stopped and gave them tickets to a concert. They learned that he was the director general of music for the Kingdom of Saxony. After the concert he announced that in the audience were four children whose voices were among the finest he had ever heard. He asked them to sing some of their sweet Tyrolian melodies for the king and queen, who were present, and for the rest of the audience.

Breathless with excitement, they decided to close their eyes and pretend they were singing at home. They began and ended their program with the new Christmas song. Afterward the king and queen received them and asked about the beautiful carol. The royal couple said they had never heard it before, and would like the Strasser children to come to the palace on Christmas Eve and sing it for their own children.

So on the night before Christmas, 1832, 14 years after Josef Möhr and Franz Grüber composed it, the Strasser children gave their song to the world. In 1840 it was first printed.

Before Germany swallowed Austria and declared the tender song "undesirable," American listeners heard it in direct broadcasts from Hallein, a town nine miles south of Salzburg where Franz Grüber taught music for years and where he is buried. The voice on those occasions was that of Felix Grüber, grandson of Franz, and his accompaniment was the original guitar on which "Silent Night" was first played more than a century before.

Bulletin No. 2, December 17, 1945.



Curt von Coll

NEAR THE BIRTHPLACE OF "SILENT NIGHT," THE STEEPLE OF A SIMPLE AUSTRIAN CHURCH RISES AMID A FOREST OF STEEPLELIKE SPRUCES

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Chemicals Grow the Army's Salads on Soilless Ascension

AMONG odd occupations of GI's still stationed in remote corners of the globe is that of the U. S. Army Air Forces men at "Hydroponics Station No. 1" on Ascension Island.

On this 34-square-mile cinder heap in the South Atlantic, approximately midway between South America and Africa, enlisted men of the U. S. Army are growing big solid tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce (illustration, next page), and other parts of a good tossed salad—demonstrating that projects of the armed forces may be constructive even in wartime. First crops were harvested before V-E Day.

The Island Offered a Way Station to Many War Fronts

Discovered by the Portuguese in 1501, Ascension Island was left to the terns and turtles for more than three centuries. Then the British Navy took it over as a guard post to see that Napoleon did not escape from St. Helena, 800 miles to the southeast. It remained a British naval outpost until after World War I when it was turned over to the civil government of St. Helena. Its only residents until the outbreak of World War II were the employees of the cable company whose station it was. Ascension then became important as an aerial way station to the China-Burma-India theater as well as to western war fronts.

Except for 2,800-foot Green Mountain (highest point on the island), where food is grown for the cable company employees, the island is a desolation of volcanic ash dotted with the peaks of extinct cones. Trade winds modify the tropical temperature but there is almost no rain below heights of 2,000 feet.

When the Army took hundreds of GI's there to make and man the air base, all the food and water had to be brought in. The small green oasis of the cable company's farm could not stretch its production to feed the newcomers. Something had to be done. The Army did it by establishing its first laboratory for large-scale cultivation of vegetables by hydroponics—essential chemical food elements dissolved in water.

Hydroponics employs two methods of growing. In one the growing plants are suspended above a screened tank so that their roots dangle in the chemical solution. In the other the plant roots cling to gravel or cinder as a holding medium, and the solution is supplied periodically through the shallow-tank beds as sub-surface irrigation. The Ascension Island gardens, of the latter type, use black volcanic cinders to hold the roots.

The Gardens Are Terraced to Conserve Water

On a gentle slope which earlier GI arrivals had groomed as a baseball field, engineers built tanks in the form of trenches lined with asphaltic concrete. Three feet wide, eight inches deep, and spaced four feet apart, these rectangles cover an area the size of 200 average city Victory gardens.

Because every drop of water used by the Army on Ascension must be distilled from the sea, the gardens are arranged in four sections of 25 tank-beds each. These are terraced so that the food-water admitted from the supply reservoir to the top section drains from one section to the next. Thus, the soldiers who garden are chemists and valve turners rather than men with shovels and hoes. At the lower edge of the garden the remaining liquid flows into a pit and is pumped back to the supply reservoir.

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with jazz bands. The sands are used for sun bathing by men, women, and children—a custom almost unknown in Palestine before Tel Aviv appeared.

Tel Aviv lives by commerce and industry, and rivals Jaffa as a wholesale trade center. It is an outlet for Palestine's biggest export, citrus crops, grown in a coastal belt which is prewar years shipped millions of cases of oranges and grapefruit to European markets.

A leader in industry, the city is the home of an industry which makes hundreds of thousands of silicate bricks for builders' use. Smaller factories turn out furniture, textiles, shoes, cigarettes, candies, and fruit crates. The Levant Fair, an international exposition of foreign and domestic merchandise, was a regular peacetime event.

Port facilities include a small jetty built in 1936 for the landing of goods and passengers from light-draft vessels and lighters. Deep-draft ships must anchor in the mooring space some distance off shore. Through Jaffa, Tel Aviv is linked to Palestine's railway lines.

The climate of the region is much like that of southern California. About nine-tenths of the annual rainfall is recorded in the six-months period from November through April.

Note: Tel Aviv is shown on the Society's Map of Central Europe and the Mediterranean. For further information, see "Change Comes to Bible Lands," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for December, 1938*; and "Changing Palestine," April, 1934.

Bulletin No. 3, December 17, 1945.

Maynard Owen Williams

TEL AVIV'S SUN-WORSHIPPERS HAVEN'T FAR TO GO FOR A SWIM

Built on the dunes along what was a deserted beach north of Jaffa, this southern-Californialike city in Palestine spends much of its time outdoors. Mothers leave baby carriages chained to the railing on the wall and descend the steps to swim or sun-bathe. Hundreds of beach chairs along the foot of the wall are rented by the day. This scene is near London Square, the city's center. The characteristic broad balconies on Tel Aviv buildings have been likened to drawers pulled out of gigantic dressers.

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Recognition of Albania Spotlights Balkan Troubles

THE "Big Three" have taken steps to recognize the existing regime of Colonel General Enver Hoxha in Albania, that potato-shaped Balkan country wedged against the Adriatic Sea by Greece and Yugoslavia. This move has brought protests from the Greeks, who hold that Albania sided with the Axis and is actually still at war with Greece. They maintain that their countrymen living in Albania have been so terrorized that fair political representation is impossible. Some Greeks regard Greek-populated southern Albania as part of their homeland.

From the earliest times Albania has served as a battleground. Her history bristles with territorial forays of foreign powers and boundary disputes with her neighbors. Foreign rule has been common. Romans, Byzantines, Slavs, and Turks had their day as conquerors. The Turks held dominion from 1467 to 1912, the Albanians winning their freedom by war.

Rugged Highlands Are Natural Fortresses

A match for the State of Maryland in size, Albania fronts the Adriatic Sea for about 160 miles, and stands guard at the entrance to the Strait of Otranto. This water vestibule links the Adriatic with the Ionian Sea, broad northern extension of the Mediterranean. Directly across the strait lies Italy's heel, only 47 miles away.

Albania's coastal land is a low strip of plain ranging from 10 to 40 miles wide. Swamps in this area raise a health problem. Inland, the country is ridged with high mountains, the tallest peaks reaching up to 10,000 feet. These rugged highlands—the natural fortresses of the natives—are broken with river valleys and fertile plains. Except in the uplands the climate is mild.

Forests are one of the country's greatest resources. They grow especially dense in the north. Commercially valuable timber includes oak, walnut, beech, chestnut, pine, and fir trees. Such minerals as copper, oil, salt, and bitumen have been profitable, but development of the mines is hampered by transportation difficulties. Albania's principal industries are flour milling, olive pressing for oil, and cheese making.

Although methods of land cultivation are primitive, Albania's farmers have produced sizable crops of grain and tobacco. Hundreds of thousands of sheep, goats, and cattle are raised.

Passable roads connect the important towns. In the northern mountain districts ponies and donkeys (illustration, next page) replace high-wheeled vehicles. The war interrupted the construction of a railway to link Durazzo—best equipped port—with Elbasani in the country's heart. Several air lines normally provide regular service to European cities.

Independence Recognized before World War I

Nearly seven-tenths of Albania's million people—descendants of the ancient Illyrians or Thracians—are Moslems. Christians of the Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic faiths make up the bulk of the remainder.

Albania's largest town is Tirana, the capital, situated near the center of the country. The population according to the latest available figures is about 31,000. Next in size are Scutari, Corizza, Elbasani, Argirocastro, Berati, Valona, and Durazzo.

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Potassium, phosphorus, nitrogen, calcium, and magnesium are food elements in the solution. Plants are first sprouted in seedbeds of sand and soil, then transferred to the cinder beds where they grow through slits in burlap spread to reduce surface evaporation. There are no weeds, but plant pests include thrips, leaf rollers, tomato worms, and inch-long crickets—natives of Ascension's only previous garden area on Green Mountain, where cloud moisture supports vegetation.

Bees were brought by plane from Brazil to pollinate some of the plants. Tomato blossoms are fertilized by hormone paste that helps to produce big, solid, almost seedless fruit. Windbreaks protect the tall tomato and cucumber plants from the island's perpetual winds. Strips of white cotton cloth are periodically drawn over the gardens to temper the constant rays of the sun. Plantings are staggered so that new crops of each vegetable replace the old ones at once.

The success of the first crops was a second notable victory for the Army on Ascension. The first was the completion by Army Engineers, in three months, of the big airfield on rocky wastes considered by many an impossible location.

Note: Ascension Island appears on the Society's Map of the Atlantic Ocean.

For further information, see "Greens Grow for GI's on Soilless Ascension," in the *National Geographic Magazine* for August, 1945; "Ascension Island, an Engineering Victory," May, 1944; and "At Home on the Oceans," July, 1939*; and in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, January 31, 1944, "Isolated Ascension, Once Dry-Land Battleship, at War Again."

Bulletin No. 4, December 17, 1945.

W. Robert Moore

CINDER-BASED LETTUCE FEEDS AIR BASE GI'S ON ASCENSION ISLAND

Uncle Sam's soldiers-turned-gardeners line up on the cinder path between the lettuce beds to gather the harvest. Set down on the ashy Atlantic island where nothing would grow except on the moist crown of Green Mountain, soldiers cooperated with civilian scientists in what might be termed "Operation Salad." By the relatively new science of hydroponics, which requires neither fertile soil nor rain, the air base personnel grows vegetables to vary the monotony of an army mess almost at the other end of nowhere.

Recognized independence of Albania began in 1912 under the sponsorship of European powers. A German, Prince William of Wied, was made the ruler. Treachery and rebellion forced him out after the beginning of the First World War. Italian forces occupied the southern part of Albania in 1915. In June, 1917, though enemy troops were in the northern part of the country, the Italian commanding general proclaimed Albania independent and under the protection of Italy.

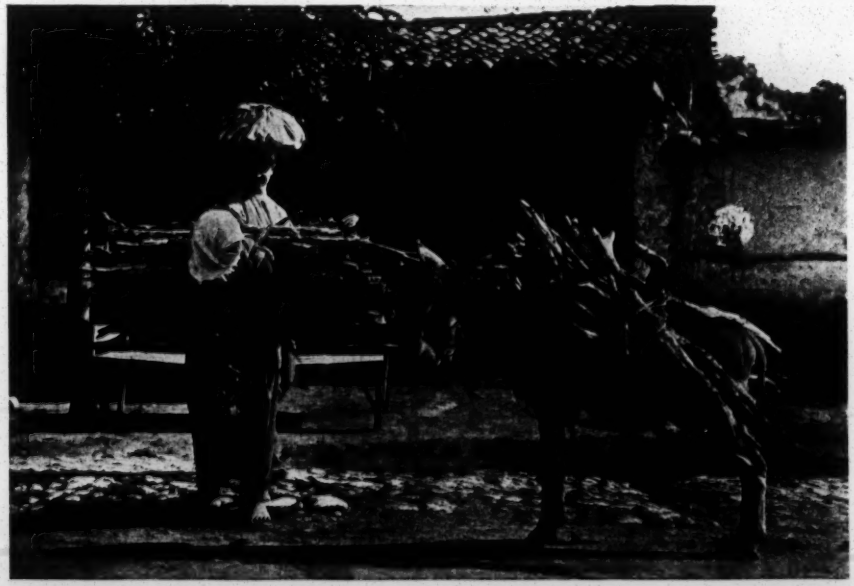
Greeks claimed the Epirus region in the south, Yugoslavia coveted a slice of northern Albania, and Italy interfered in the country's internal affairs. As a result the Albanians became involved in bitter disputes with their three more powerful neighbors. From this situation a republic emerged in 1925. Three years later Albania switched from the republican to the monarchic form of government, and proclaimed President Zog King Zog.

Italian invasion in 1939 forced the king into exile, and brought Albania into the Italian Empire. When the Italians attempted to extend their conquest into Greece they were beaten back and pursued into Albania by the victorious Greeks. German forces surrendered in April, 1941. At this turn of events the Albanians rose against their Axis masters. So well did they fight in guerrilla bands that by the end of 1944 they had driven their enemies out of the country.

Note: Albania is shown on the Society's Map of Europe and the Near East.

See also "Europe's Newest Kingdom," in the February, 1931*, issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*; and "Albania: Perennial Doorstep to the Balkans," in the GEOGRAPHIC SCHOOL BULLETINS, October 16, 1944; "Albania Struggles to Divorce Italy as Allied Bombs Fall," December 6, 1943; and "Mountainous Albania a Reluctant Aid to the Axis," November 16, 1942.

Bulletin No. 5, December 17, 1945.



Merl La Voy

IT IS SHARE, BUT NOT "SHARE ALIKE" IN ALBANIA'S MOUNTAIN DISTRICTS

Legal equal of her husband, this woman of Albania also shares the manual labor—and not only with the man but with the donkey. Her head swathed in a scarf almost as concealing as the now discarded veil, this mountain helpmate of Elbasani carries on her back a load of firewood nearly as heavy as that borne by the donkey. Above her bare feet her long skirt drapes around her ankles in trouserlike style reminiscent of the costumes of the Turks who so long ruled the region. Behind, her husband stands erect under a lighter load of cloth bundle worn on his head in a jaunty beret fashion.